

Allston House
405 Front Street
Georgetown
Georgetown County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-310

HABS
SC
22-GEOTO,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ALLSTON HOUSE

Address: 405 Front Street, Georgetown, Georgetown County,
South Carolina.

Present Owner Mr. Allan Read, 405 Front Street, Georgetown,
and Occupant: South Carolina.

Brief Statement The Allston House is probably one of the oldest
of Significance: homes in Georgetown.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: Built by the Allston family; sold by widow of Governor R. F. W. Allston, after the Civil War, to Mrs. Dawley. At her death it went to Dr. Ferris; later to Mrs. Dill; then to the Read family.
- B. Date of Erection: Said to be 1737.
- C. Sources of Information:
Bolick, Julian S. Georgetown Houselore. Clinton, S. C.: Jacobs Press, 1944.
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. Historic Trail of Old Homes and Buildings of Georgetown, S.C. Georgetown, S. C.: Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, n. d.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
August 1963

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: Good example of an early Georgetown house.
 2. Condition of fabric: Good.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior:
1. Over-all dimensions: Two stories, five-bay front, two bays deep (exclusive of rear shed addition).
 2. Layout: Long, narrow, rectangular house with shed along rear.

3. Foundations: House appears to have been built on brick piers, and the openings later filled in with patterned brick masonry.
4. Wall construction: Beaded clapboards, painted white.
5. Structural system: Typical frame construction.
6. Porch: A long, one-story porch with late nineteenth-century "jigsaw" railings, turned columns and scrolls, board ceiling and floor, and latticed brick masonry in-filling between brick supporting piers extends across the front. Modern brick steps lead to porch at right end of house and cut into porch. There is a modern screened porch on rear.
7. Chimneys: Simple brick chimneys near ends of house are painted black.
8. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The left front door, which is not original and is glazed and six paneled, is set in a simple, old, molded frame. The right door is late nineteenth century and has a two-light transom.
 - b. Windows: The windows all have double-hung wooden sash. Those on the first floor have nine-over-nine lights, and those on the second floor, six-over-six lights. Unusually thick muntins, with plain unmolded outside trim, project slightly from the plane of the house.
9. Roof: Gable roof with simple pediments across gable ends and standing-seam, metal roof that is painted black. Very plain, unmolded cornice.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The house was originally one room deep. On the right-hand side is an entrance from the street, with small entrance hall and staircase (this may originally have been a porch). To the left from the hall are two original large rooms. Upstairs there are three bedrooms along the front and a hallway to the rear. One-story porch along rear of the house has been closed in to add a row of rooms.
2. Stairways: The staircase is of recent vintage and is of no particular interest.
3. Flooring: The first floor has matched width board (5") flooring; the second floor, random width pine boards (butt sides). Hallway appears to have had new flooring laid over the older board floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls, simple board chair rail, and board baseboard. Plaster modillions in ceilings of first-floor rooms.
5. Doors: Most doors in house are handsome, four-paneled doors with very high raised paneling on one side only (flat paneling on other). Recessed, molded door frames and doors appear to be original. Double doors between two principal first-floor rooms each have three panels that are raised.
6. Decorative features and trim: Handsome wood cornice in the two first-floor rooms. The chair rail in the right room is molded; in the left room, plain board. Original portion of house has windows with extremely thick muntins. On the inside, the molded window frame goes around all four sides; there is no sill.
7. Hardware: Several doors have large HL hinges.
8. Lighting: Modern electric lighting.
9. Heating: First floor has a fireplace with modern mantel-pieces in each of the principal rooms. The main bedroom on the left side of the second floor has a very simple fireplace.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: The Allston House is located on a small corner lot in a residential neighborhood.
2. Landscaping: Trees at front; cement sidewalks; small yard at rear, near waterfront.

Prepared by James C. Massey, Architect
National Park Service
August 1963